QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

(Here are the questions asked most frequently by Virginia farmers during the past week, as reported by county agents. Staff members of the VPI Agricultural Extension Service and/or Experiment Station supply the answers.)

Q. What can be done to offset the 20 per cent reduction in 1957 flue-cured tobacco allotments?

A.- The opportunities are indeed limited in agriculture. If you try to put a small fragment of land into the production of some other crop, you may find yourself even worse off. If the cut in the allotment leaves you with less than a profitable one-man enterprise, you might do well to look for off-farm employment.

Q. How can I control chickweed in alfalfa and small grains?

A.- In established stands of alfalfa (even during the first winter after seeding) use three pounds of CIPC in 30 to 40 gallons of water per acre. Spray after the legume has been killed back by frost and before new growth starts in the spring.

There is no recommendation for control of chickweed in small grains in Virginia, as not enough work has yet been done on it. However, dinitro has been used successfully in some areas.

Use of chemicals for weed control should be considered a supplement to, not a replacement for, good cultural practices.

Q.- What is the best chemical to use to spray small grains for wild onion control, and when should I apply it?

A.- Use 2,4-D at the rate of 1-3 to 3-4 pound in 20 to 30 gallons of water per acre. Apply after the small grain paints have tillered, but before they begin to joint.

Q.. How can I render lard without its becoming rancid?

A.- To each 50 pounds of hot lard, add a three-pound can of homogenized vegetable fat . . the vegetable shortening found in grocery stores. Stir thoroughly and store in tight containers as usual. Lard keeps much longer if stored in small airtight containers, such as 1-2-gallon jars or three - pound tin cans.

Q. What are some of the jobs I can do now in my farm woods, and what returns can I expect?

A.- (1) Thin dense young stands for pulpwood. A standard cord of wood will bring around $13.35. (2) Plant forest seedlings. An open field planting should grow in value up to $10 per acre per year. Spot-plant openings in wooded areas. (3) Release good young trees now growing under inferior trees. They will grow more rapidly. (4) Clear and plant where low-grade hardwoods now cover an area. This will convert a stand of little value to one of potentially valuable trees. (5) Prepare a desirable seed bed before making a harvest cutting where natural reseeding is expected. This will help young seedlings become established quickly.

Q.- How much damage is the spotted alfalfa aphid expected to do in 1957?

A.- We will have to wait and see. Other states report that heavy damage can be inflicted by the aphid during the spring and summer. It first appeared in Virginia in August, 1956, and diseases and predators kept populations of aphids down to a minimum.

In FASHION now

The Christmas season is the easiest time of the year to look gay and pretty. This is more true today than ever before because of all the wonderful creams and lotions we have and our sensible way of eating and drinking.

The clothes do not make the woman — but they go a long way towards making her. If there is one time during the year when you can justify going overboard when choosing a dance or cocktail dress, this is it.

This year try a new, fuller hair style and a new cut in a cocktail dress or formal. Two minutes worth of hairbrushing and a bright new lipstick can make a big difference between prettiness and a washed-out look.

The ball gown is back and has brought with it new evening accessories — beaded bags, graceful fans and even shoe bags to carry your very new velvet shoes to the party in.

Lace is still the top favorite, however, it is quite expensive. If you do break-down, just remember that good lace lasts and lasts. Chiffon seems to be next. This is one fabric that is becoming to all shapes and sizes except the very young. It lends itself perfectly to the new back interest in dresses.

It is about time something was done about nylon hose! All too often, after just a few hours of wear a run appears. It is up to the manufacturers to make a stronger nylon hose that is sheer at the same time. As long as we continue to be taken advantage of the manufacturer will become richer and richer. American women would be happy to pay a few more cents per pair for hose if they would just last.

Looking for a last-minute gift idea? How about giving a subscription to the home county paper!

THE NEW RECORDS

By B. C. H.

Johnny Maddox has really given **Solitude** (Dot) a new treatment. The tempo is stepped-up considerably, the piano predominating. Fine —**Nickelodeon Tango.**

The Crew Cuts, with David Carroll conducting, have a good rendition in **Tell Me Why.** It's hard to sit still too.

Tirze Out For Tears (Decca) is a new album out by the Ink Spots. It includes, among others, **Prisoner of Love, Always and Memories of You.**

Al Hibbler of **Turn the Lights Down Low** (Alladin) fame has groaned out another—**I Get It Bad And Ain't That Good.**

PAY CUT $100,00 O. K.

Groton, Conn.. When the annual town meeting cut School Superintendent Lawis G. Allbee's annual salary by $100,000, he wasn't disturbed. It wasn't until some time later that he heard about the vote correcting a typographical error in the town report which listed the salary at $111,000.

Whither?

THE INNKEEPERS looked, and shook their heads. "No room — the house is filled — pass on!"

Pass on? WHITHER?

The world almost 2000 years later pleads the same question . . . *whither?* In the centuries since the first Christmas Eve, mankind many times has plagued itself with violence and sorrow, and whole nations have engulfed and lost themselves in the mad race — *whither?*

This season of the year recalls *the way* as it was shown by Him who spoke guidance for all peoples in all years. May it be the prayer of men on this anniversary of the birth of the Prince of Peace that our world may move in the light and understanding of His words . . . "on earth, peace, good will toward men."

★ ★ ★

The Norfolk and Western Railway and the Norfolk and Western Family are deeply grateful for the privilege of living and working in a land blessed by freedom and peace. It is our sincere wish that this Christmas Season will be full of good cheer and happiness for our friends and patrons everywhere.

Norfolk and Western Railway

Homemakers Items

Gift wrappings can be inexpensive. Here's the holiday tip from home economists at VPI, who say with so many gifts to wrap this time of the year, the paper, cards, ribbons, the seals and other decorations for packages can add up to quite a sum. However, you can wrap attractive packages with very little expense.

All it takes is a little imagination. Look around the house and see what scrap materials you can find that would make an attractive or an unusual wrapping.

Ends of wallpaper rolls, whether you have them left from your walls or buy them as old stock from your local paint store, are especially pretty for large packages. Even newspapers can be used to wrap an extra - large package. Use the want ad section since it is more attractive than the other pages. Tie it with a great big red ribbon. Or you can use some left-over crepe paper for the bow. Be sure to crinkle the edges.

Small pieces of aluminum foil or shelf paper from the end of the roll are excellent for wrapping smaller packages. Or if you have a youngster who likes to finger paint why not wrap gifts in some of his paintings!

White tissue paper can be made attractive by spattering it with red or green ink, or water with food coloring added. For a very fine spattering, brush the ink or colored water through a tea strainer. Or you may want to use stencils to make a regular design with the color.

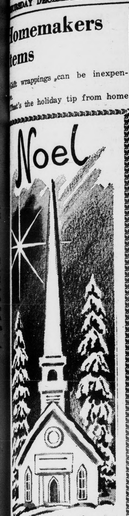
For seals, cut out colored pictures from magazines, old Christmas cards or even small bits of wrapping paper, and paste them on the package. Or you can paste them on a small piece of folded construction paper to make an enclosure card.

For unusual ribbons and ties, rip up old clothing into strips and daub with silver or gold paint. To keep the ends from raveling, cut them with pinking shears. Old nylon tricot slips make good strips because they roll slightly and do not ravel.

Don't forget that acorns, pine cones or oak leaves, painted or shellacked and tied on top of the package, will catch the eye of both young and old.

Coffee cans, shortening cans, or other metal containers can be painted or covered with aluminum foil to make excellent containers for giving fruit cakes, cookies, and candies to your family and friends.

Subscription rate: $2.00 a year; payable in advance.



May the spirit of the first Christmas shine brightly in your heart.

Mrs. C. W. Smith
Insurance Agency
Appomattox, Virginia
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METHODS OF YEARLING SLAUGHTER STEER PRODUCTION STUDIED

How Southwest Virginia livestock men can most profitably produce yearling steers for slaughter is the question under study by researchers at the Glade Spring branch of VPI Agricultural Experiment Station.

R. C. Carter and F. S. McClaugherty have reached what they call "cautious conclusions on the basis of one year's work. They say steer calves wintered "high" (to make about 1 1-2 pounds of daily gain liveweight during the winter) and fed about 15 bushels of corn on pasture in the summer can be expected to produce carcasses grading Good by October.

The experiment will be continued for two more years, the researchers say.

They explain that in recent years the demand for heavy beef carcasses weighing 700 pounds or above, such as are produced from the two- and three-year-old grass-fed steers weighing 1,200 to 1,500 pounds in Southwest Virginia, has declined greatly. The most popular beef carcasses at present are those weighing from 450 to 600 pounds and grading Good to average Choice. Carcasses in this weight range must be produced from yearling cattle.

Tests and practical experience over the past several years have shown that yearling steers handled in the conventional manner and slaughtered off grass at the end of their yearling summer will, on the average, produce carcasses grading top Commercial. It is not usually profitable to sell Commercial cattle for slaughter at this season of the year.

The scientists are trying to determine how much grain is necessary, in addition to pasture and forage crops, to produce yearling slaughter steers grading Good or better; and at what season of the year the extra grain should be fed.

CAN'T SPEND FORTUNE

Halifax, N. S.. In 1955, J. D. Shatford died at Daytona Beach, Fla., leaving the village of Hubbards, 30 miles west of here, $1,300,000 to be used for religious, educational and charitable purposes. Shatford had left Hubbards 77 years earlier to make his fortune. However, the small town is finding it difficult to spend even the annual interest of between $50,000 and $60,000, as there are "very few people in Hubbards who qualify for charitable aid."

Merry Christmas

Here is a hope that the joy of the Christmas season will abide with you always. May its spirit of good fellowship live in your heart throughout the new year.

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GREETINGS

To greet you at Christmas... our warm, sincere wishes for a glad and glorious holiday. May the inspiration of the Christmas story ever be a comfort and a joy to you and yours

E. W. HARVEY
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Merry

Christmas

It's the season to be joyful... to exchange with family and friends the greetings of the Yuletide. We gladly join in, with happy holiday wishes to each and every one of you.

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